

September 16, 2003

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: *Ex Parte* Notice

In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Monday, September 15, 2003, L. Marie Guillory and Daniel Mitchell from NTCA met with FCC Commissioner Michael Copps and Jessica Rosenworcel, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Michael J. Copps.

We discussed the criteria for defining the “public interest” in designating an additional eligible telecommunications carrier in a rural ILEC service area. In addition we discussed the highlights of a paper by Dale Lehman, *Universal Service and the Myth of the Level Playing Field*. Copies of handouts provided at the meeting are attached.

In accordance with the Commission’s rules, an original and two copies of this letter are being filed with the Secretary’s Office. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 703-351-2021.

Sincerely,

/s/ L. Marie Guillory
Vice President
Legal and Industry

cc: Cmr. Michael Copps
 Jessica Rosenworcel
 Attachments